

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIVISION

MARICOPA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Policy/Procedure Guideline

SECTION 16: Street Lighting

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 2, 1995

PARAGRAPH:

1. Purpose
2. Description
3. Exhibits
4. Background
5. Authorization
6. References
7. Attachments

1. PURPOSE:

To have a uniform policy for the installation of street lights along roads or intersections under the jurisdiction of Maricopa County.

2. DESCRIPTION:

To help further clarify Maricopa County's policy how roads or intersections get street lighting is identified by the following four methods:

- a. Forming of a **Street Light Improvement District** (SLID). It is the first method that could be used to establish street lights. The Maricopa County Attorney for many years has stated that citizens who desire street lights in their neighborhood, and have a majority in agreement can get street lights utilizing this method. All costs are borne by the residents and are collected thru county property taxes. This method is organized thru the Superintendent of Streets Office of Maricopa County.

- b. **Private lighting agreement** between a citizen and the local utility company. This is where a citizen wants to light-up the front of his residence by requesting thru the utility company the installation of a dusk to dawn light. All costs are borne by the citizen who pays a monthly fee to the utility company. Basically there is no coordination of this method by MCDOT.
- c. Street lights at **signalized intersections** are provided as a policy of the Traffic Engineering Division for over 20 years. If possible; and if appropriate, a street light is installed on each corner of the intersection as long as there is no over-head utility conflicts. The fees for this lighting is billed to the Traffic Engineering Division on a monthly basis until relieved of responsibility by annexation or incorporation.
- d. **Night accident history** would be the final method that could justify the installation of street lights. This method is at approval of the County Traffic Engineer after all other possible remedial actions have been exhausted without noticeable improvement in nighttime accident experience. The fees for this lighting is billed to the Traffic Engineering Division on a monthly basis by the local utility company until relieved of responsibility by annexation or incorporation.

3. **EXHIBITS:**

Non-applicable.

4. **BACKGROUND:**

The traffic engineer felt it was important to explain MCDOT's long running policy regarding the installation of street lights on county roads. Due to the size of Maricopa County, the rural nature of many of the roads, the lack of available electrical power, and the substantial commitment required to set aside funding have been the major factors which discouraged a comprehensive county road lighting policy. With the exception of lighting at signalized intersection or a nighttime accident problem, street lights in Maricopa

County are requested, installed, and funded by the ultimate neighborhood user.

5. AUTHORIZATION:

- a. For method 2a: ARS Title 48, Chapter 6, Article 1.
- b. For methods 2c and 2d: By direction of the Department of Transportation Traffic Engineer.

6. REFERENCES:

Non-Applicable.

7. ATTACHMENTS:

- a. "An Information Sheet About Improvement Districts."

Approved: _____
Albert G. Letzkus, P.E.
County Traffic Engineer